

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/536,904

Examiner

David S. Baker

Applicant(s)

MORI ET AL.

Art Unit

2884

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 30 July 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3, 5-7 and 11-16.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The amendment filed 30 July 2007 has been accepted and entered.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT ✓

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Paul Fournier on 08 November 2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 17 is cancelled.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-3, 5-7, and 11-16 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: ✓

Regarding claim 1, the prior art of record does not disclose or reasonably suggest, along with the other claimed limitations, a solid-state imaging apparatus comprising: namely, an electroconductive member provided so as to cover at least the pn junction portions exposed on the one side on the semiconductor substrate; and the specific layering and positioning of the remaining imaging apparatus elements. While the prior art discloses the use of all the claimed limitations individually or in some combination, the exact layout as claimed in conjunction with the specific electroconductive member is not taught or reasonably suggested.

Regarding claims 2-3 and 11-13, the balance of claims is found allowable due to their dependence upon an already allowed claim and lacking any technical errors.

Regarding claim 5, the prior art of record does not disclose or reasonably suggest, along with the other claimed limitations, a solid-state imaging apparatus comprising: namely, an electroconductive member provided so as to cover at least the pn junction portions exposed on the one side on the semiconductor substrate; and the specific layering and positioning of the remaining imaging apparatus elements. While the prior art discloses the use of all the claimed limitations individually or in some combination, the exact layout as claimed in conjunction with the specific electroconductive member is not taught or reasonably suggested.

Regarding claims 6-7 and 14-16, the balance of claims is found allowable due to their dependence upon an already allowed claim and lacking any technical errors.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments, see the pages 8-9 of the amendment, filed 30 July 2007, with respect to claims 1-3, 5-7, and 11-16 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of these claims has been withdrawn.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

US 2002/0063199 A1 – Kozuka discloses a grounded electrode to drain rogue charges building around photodiodes.

US 2006/0027760 A1 – Rougeot discloses a grounded electrode to drain rogue charges building around photodiodes.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David S. Baker whose telephone number is (571) 272-6003. The examiner can normally be reached on MTWRF 9:30am-6:00pm.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David P. Porta can be reached on (571) 272-2444. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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